

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/796,192

Applicant(s)

NAKAYOSHI ET AL.

Examiner

Prabodh M. Dharia

Art Unit

2629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11-27-2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2,3,5-15 and 18-38.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 11-27-2007
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

1. **Status:** Please all the replies and correspondence should be addressed to Examiner's new art unit 2629. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted on 11-27-2007 under RCE with amendments and IDS to be considered, which have been placed of record in the file. Claims 2, 3, 5-15 and 18-38, are pending in this action. The claims 1, 4, 16 and 17 are cancelled.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 11-27-2007 was filed after the mailing date of the allowance on 08-28-2007. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Response to Amendment

3. The amendment filed 11-27-2007 does not introduce any new matter into the disclosure. The added material is supported by the original disclosure. Applicant has decided to cancel the claims 1, 4 and 16, have been canceled and claims 5 and 7 have been amended to depend from claim 2 instead of depending from cancel claim 1. The amendments to claims do not alter, effect or change the allowability status of the claims 2, 3, 5-15 and 18-38 and after extensive search and consideration of the IDS, the prior arts cited on the IDS fail to disclose the allowable limitations recited in allowance below in underlined bold, which puts application number 10796192 in condition for allowance.

4. The closest prior art cited on the IDS is YOSHIOKA, HIROSHI et al. (JP408166599A) discloses floating counter electrode of a pixel. a liquid crystal display device provided with pixel electrodes so as to overlap on a part of n-th signal line and the (n+1)th signal line adjacent to the signal line and at least one pixel is provided with one divided counter electrode. The device is provided with an external signal power source which impresses a common voltage only when a scanning voltage is impressed on the divided counter electrode and applies signal pulses to float the divided counter electrode at other times.

However, YOSHIOKA, HIROSHI et al. (JP408166599A) fails to disclose “the reference signal is supplied to the pixels for every selected pixel row and, at the same time, most of the gate signal lines and the counter voltage signal lines in other pixel rows except for the selected pixel rows are respectively configured to assume a floating state or when the signal is scanned and supplied to the next gate signal line, the switches are turned off in response to an OFF signal, and when the scanning signal is supplied to the further next gate signal line, the gate signal line to which the scanning signal is supplied at the two preceding stage is made to assume a floating state, and the respective gate signal lines are connected to a signal line to which the OFF signal is supplied through portions thereof which assume a floating state and diodes”.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 2,3,5-15 and 18-38 allowed.

6. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant has cancelled claims 1,4,16 and 17. Applicant has also submitted IDS on 11-27-2007 to be considered. After extensive search and consideration, IDS submitted on PTO

1449, fails to recite or disclose all the other limitations of independent claims combined with uniquely distinct features represented by underlined bold claim limitations below;

For Independent Claims 2,3, 11,14,18 and 33-36

the reference signal is supplied to the pixels for every selected pixel row and, at the same time, most of the gate signal lines and the counter voltage signal lines in other pixel rows except for the selected pixel rows are respectively configured to assume a floating state.

For Independent Claims 31 and 32

when the signal is scanned and supplied to the next gate signal line, the switches are turned off in response to an OFF signal, and when the scanning signal is supplied to the further next gate signal line, the gate signal line to which the scanning signal is supplied at the two preceding stage is made to assume a floating state, and the respective gate signal lines are connected to a signal line to which the OFF signal is supplied through portions thereof which assume a floating state and diodes.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Prabodh M. Dharia whose telephone number is 571-272-7668.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8AM to 5PM.

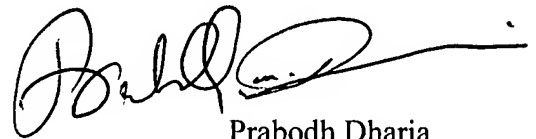
8. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231



Prabodh Dharia

Full Signatory Authority Program

AU 2629

December 01, 2007